

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NEA-14

NSCE-00 /037 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS - TRHANSON:HHB

APPROVED BY S/PRS - IRWIN PERNICK

S/S - SEFRY

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O 140055Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 599

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 13, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: MIDEAST SHUTTLE BACK ON PAGE 1 OF MONDAY MORNING
NEWSPAPERS WITH OPTIMISTIC REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM. ALL
STORIES MENTION THREE HILLS NEAR EL QUNEITRA AS STICKING
POINT. WIRES LESS OPTIMISTIC, DESCRIBE DEMONSTRATIONS BY
ISRAELI PIONEER SETTLERS FROM GOLAN AREA, IMPLY POSSIBLE
HARDENING OF ISRAEL'S BARGAINING POSITION. NEWSWEEK
CONCENTRATES ON HAK'S LARGER PERSPECTIVE ON MIDEAST, TIME
MENTIONS TRIP ONLY IN PASSING IN LENGTHY STORY ON SADAT'S
EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

1. GWERTZMAN STORY APPEARS PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD IN NYT UNDER
HEAD "KISSINGER MEETS SYRIAN PRESIDENT AND NOTES GAIN"
WITH PIX OF ASAD INSPECTING GOLAN BATTLEFRONT AND OF HAK
AND EBAN AT JERUSALEM MEETING. HAK SAYS IN DAMASCUS THAT
HE AND SYRIAN LEADERS HAVE GONE FROM GENERAL TO "A DETAILED
AND COMPLETE EXAMINATION" OF ALL ISSUES, BUT THAT ACCORD
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STILL ELUSIVE. NEWSMEN ARE TOLD HAK STILL UNCERTAIN HE

CAN SOON BRIDGE GAP. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY HAK HOPES ISRAEL WILL MAKE ADDITIONAL COMPROMISES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE ACCORD WHEN HE RETURNS TO DAMASCUS TUESDAY. AMERICAN

OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE MAIN PROBLEM REMAINS DEMARCATION LINE IN GOLAN HEIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY THREE HILLS NEAR EL QUNEITRA. GWERTZMAN CALLS MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN DAMASCUS TALKS INCLUSION OF TWO MAJOR SYRIAN MILITARY LEADERS, INDICATING ASAD SEEKS BROADER INVOLVEMENT OF SYRIAN LEADERSHIP IN CASE OF AGREEMENT. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS OF ASAD "IF WE CAN FIND SOMETHING BEARABLE TO HIM, HE'D TAKE AN AGREEMENT." SAME OFFICIALS SAYS REMAINING DIFFERENCES RELATIVELY SMALL BUT "MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR EVERYBODY," STRESSES UNCERTAINTY IS GENUINE AND NOT A TRICK TO MAKE EVENTUAL AGREEMENT SEEM MORE DRAMATIC.

2. POST CARRIES BERGER STORY PAGE 1 "KISSINGER INDICATES PROGRESS: ISRAELI CABINET MEETS TODAY ON PROPOSALS". HAK QUOTED IN DAMASCUS : "WE MADE SOME PROGRESS, BUT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED". SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS WILL TELL WHETHER AGREEMENT FEASIBLE THIS TRIP, FEELS ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE TO GO BUT PERHAPS TOO LENGTHY FOR BOTH SIDES. BERGER REPORTS THREE HILLS WEST OF EL QUENEITRA STILL AT ISSUE. SENIOR AMERICAN DOUBTS ISRAEL WILL CEDE HILLS TO THE UN. BERGER POINTS TO CHANGED ATMOSPHERE IN DAMASCUS AS SIGN AGREEMENT NEAR, SAYS NOT SINCE 1948 HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A WARM FEELING TOWARD U.S. REPORTS SYRIAN OFFICIALS SAY THEY FEEL THEY CAN INSIST HAK PRESSURE THE ISRAELIS SINCE HAK NEEDS DISENGAGEMENT TO PROVIDE NIXON WITH FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS TO COUNTER WATERGATE. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS DECLINE TO DISCUSS U.S. ROLE IN GUARANTEEING ACCORD, BUT CONCEDE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT COULD SERVE AS PROTOTYPE. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL DENIES REPORT HAK TOLD BY FAISAL OIL EMBARGO REIMPOSED IF NO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT REACHED.

3. SAIKOWSKI ARTICLE APPEARS PAGE 1 CSM UNDER HEAD "WEEK OF DECISION IN THE MIDEAST?" SHE REPORTS THIS MAY BE A WEEK OF "MOMENTOUS" DECISION SINCE HAK BELIEVES THERE IS SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF AGREEMENT.
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REPORTS HAK PREPARED TO SUSPEND MEDIATION EFFORTS AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON IF NO BREAKTHROUGH EVIDENT EARLY IN WEEK, FEELS THIS MAY BE A PLOY TO SPUR BOTH SIDES TO EARLY CONCESSIONS TO KEEP HAK ON SCENE. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY HEARTENED BY ALLUSIONS TO PROGRESS IN SYRIAN MEDIA, SUGGEST OFFER TO REBUILD EL QUNEITRA MAY BE ELEMENT OF DISENGAGEMENT SOLUTION. SAIKOWSKI REPORTS HAK MAINTAINS UTMOST SECRECY AS HE JETS BACK AND FORTH

BETWEEN CAPITALS AND HIS AIDES CAUTION AGAINST BELIEVING MYRIAD REPORTS OF DISENGAGEMENT PLANS IN ISRAELI MEDIA AND ELSEWHERE.

4. O'LEARY STORY DOMINATES PAGE 1 OF STAR UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER REPORTS MIDEAST PROGRESS". SAYS HAK DISCLOSES NEW INTENSIFICATION OF DISENGAGEMENT AFTER COMPLETING THIRD SHUTTLE FLIGHT BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND DAMASCUS. O'LEARY CHARACTERIZES NEW MOOD OF OPTIMISM AS REFLECTED IN HAK'S BUOYANT DEMEANOR AND IN COMMENTS BY SENIOR

US OFFICIALS. POINTS TO PRESENCE OF SYRIAN MILITARY FIGURES AT DAMASCUS TALKS AND SYRIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT PROGRESS BEING MADE AS INDICATIONS BREAKTHROUGH NEAR. US OFFICIALS SAY HAK NOW IN POSITION TO GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS ON NEW LINE TO BE DRAWN ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. SAME SOURCES IMPLY ISRAEL PREPARED TO GIVE UP EL QUNEITRA WHILE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD TOWN A POSSIBILITY. O'LEARY ALSO HAS INTERVIEW WITH MRS. KISSINGER PAGE D-2 "COMMUTER LIFE MAY BE FACING KISSINGER" (PIX OF MRS. KISSINGER) CONCENTRATING ON HOUSEHUNTING AND EGYPTIAN CAMERAMEN. MRS. KISSINGER

SAYS SHE IS ENJOYING THE TRIP BUT IS ANXIOUS TO GET BACK TO WORK.

5. UPI SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN MORNING PAPERS, HAS US OFFICIALS PUT CHANCES OF REACHING AGREEMENT AT 50-50, POINTS OUT ISRAELI SOURCES LESS CONFIDENT, AND HAK TAUNTED BY DEMONSTRATORS IN JERUSALEM. AFTERNOON WIRE REPORTS HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS GAP BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL ON DISENGAGEMENT "NARROWED VERY SIGNIFICANTLY". SAME OFFICIAL SAYS CEASE-FIRE LINE IN GOLAN HEIGHT STILL A UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBLEM, MENTIONS THREE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS: 1) THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT ON CEASEFIRE LINE AND HAK WILL RETURN TO THE MIDEAST LATER, 2) THERE WILL BE AN AGREEMENT ON LINE BUT MINOR ISSUES OF DISENGAGEMENT WILL NOT BE RESOLVED, NECESSITATING ANOTHER TRIP, AND 3) THERE WILL BE A FULL AGREEMENT THIS TRIP. IN GENERAL, UPI AFTERNOON REPORT MORE OPTIMISTIC, HIGHLIGHTING SIMILARITY BETWEEN POSITIVE REPORTS FROM HAK PARTY AND THOSE EMANATING FROM WHITE HOUSE AND SYRIAN PRESS.

6. AP LEADS WITH REPORT OF ISRAELI DEMONSTRATIONS AND INDICATIONS THAT ISRAELIS REFUSING TO BUDGE BEYOND UNDISCLOSED TRUCE OFFER OF THREE DAYS AGO. SAYS ISRAEL REPORTEDLY HAS OFFERED TO TURN OVER HALF OF EL QUNEITRA TO UN FORCES AS BUFFER ZONE, BUT OFFICIAL TERMS STILL

SECRET. AFTERNOON WIRES CARRY REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATION BY ISRAELI PIONEER SETTLERS AGAINST HAK, POINT OUT THAT VOICE OF PIONEERS IS POWERFUL IN ISRAELI POLITICS. DEMONSTRATORS

QUOTED AT LENGTH IN CONFRONTATION WITH LT. GEN. MORDECHAI GUR, ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF.

7. NEWSWEEK STORY BRIEFLY RECAPITULATES EVENTS OF PAST WEEK, HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF DISENGAGEMENT LINE WITH QUOTE FROM A TOP SOURCE ON HAK'S PLANE: "IF WE GET THAT LINE, WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING". STORY REPORTS ISRAEL HAS ALREADY AGREED TO GIVE UP EL QUNEITRA IN EXCHANGE FOR 65 PRISONERS OF WAR, ALSO SAYS AGREEMENT NEAR ON BUFFER ZONE, UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, THINNING OUT OF FORCES BEHIND ZONE AT LEAST 12 MILES ON EACH SIDE. EMPHASIZES WARINESS ON BOTH SIDES: "KISSINGER'S AGONY IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS THAT HE DEEPLY UNDERSTANDS THESE FEARS...HE IS ATTEMPTING IN HIS MIDEAST TRAVELS NOT JUST TO NEGOTIATE A MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT, BUT TO GET THE ISRAELIS AND ARABS TO SEE--AS HE DOES--THE MERITS OF EACH OTHER'S ARGUMENTS AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S FEARS." GOES ON TO QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT AIDE "KISSINGER IS THREE JUMPS AHEAD OF EVERYBODY. WHILE MOST OF THE WORLD IS FOCUSING ON WHERE THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE IS TO BE, HE'S MOST CONCERNED WITH CREATING A CLIMATE FOR FUTURE PEACE."

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8. TIME SUBSUMES SCATTERED REFERENCES TO CURRENT SHUTTLE UNDER RUBRIC OF LENGTHY ARTICLE ON "SADAT OPENS THE DOOR" (PIX OF HAK SHAKING HANDS WITH SADAT). REPORTS HAK MAKING PROGRESS BUT AT WEEK'S END DISENGAGEMENT DEAL STILL UNCERTAIN. SHORT VIGNETTE ON MRS. KISSINGER IN "PEOPLE" SECTION WITH PIX OF HER WITH MRS. ZAID RIFAI. DESCRIBES HER SIGHTSEEING ACTIVITIES, REPORTS FOLLOWING INCIDENT: "AT ONE POINT IN THE HECTIC TRIP, A REPORTER OFFERED TO ACCOMPANY NANCY ON A TOUR OF AN ARAB MARKET. "DON'T DO IT," SAID HENRY WITH CONJUGAL RESIGNATION, "YOU CAN'T AFFORD HER". RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, TOSEC 599
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE099415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRHANSON:HHB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740117-0696
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740549/aaaabrffh.tel
Line Count: 213
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 13, 1974 FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005